

# Service Area and Pharmacy Network Access

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# Service Area

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- Minimum service area is a single State
  - If residents in any part of a State are allowed to enroll, the entire State must be included in the service area
- “National” programs operate in all 50 States and the District of Columbia

# Pharmacy Network Access

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- Sponsors must provide convenient access to participating retail pharmacies, and must meet at least the following TRICARE standards:
  - Urban areas: at least 90% of beneficiaries live within 2 miles
  - Suburban areas: at least 90% of beneficiaries live within 5 miles
  - Rural areas: at least 70% of beneficiaries live within 15 miles
- Urban, suburban, rural defined based on population density
- Standards to be met at the program level

# Definition of Retail/Community Pharmacy

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- We consider retail or community pharmacy to mean any non-mail order pharmacy where a patient can walk in off the street, provide a prescription slip, and have it filled regardless of whether the prescription is associated with a visit or procedure at that facility

# Mail Order

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- Mail order is permitted so long as retail pharmacy network access standards are met
- May not require beneficiaries to use mail order